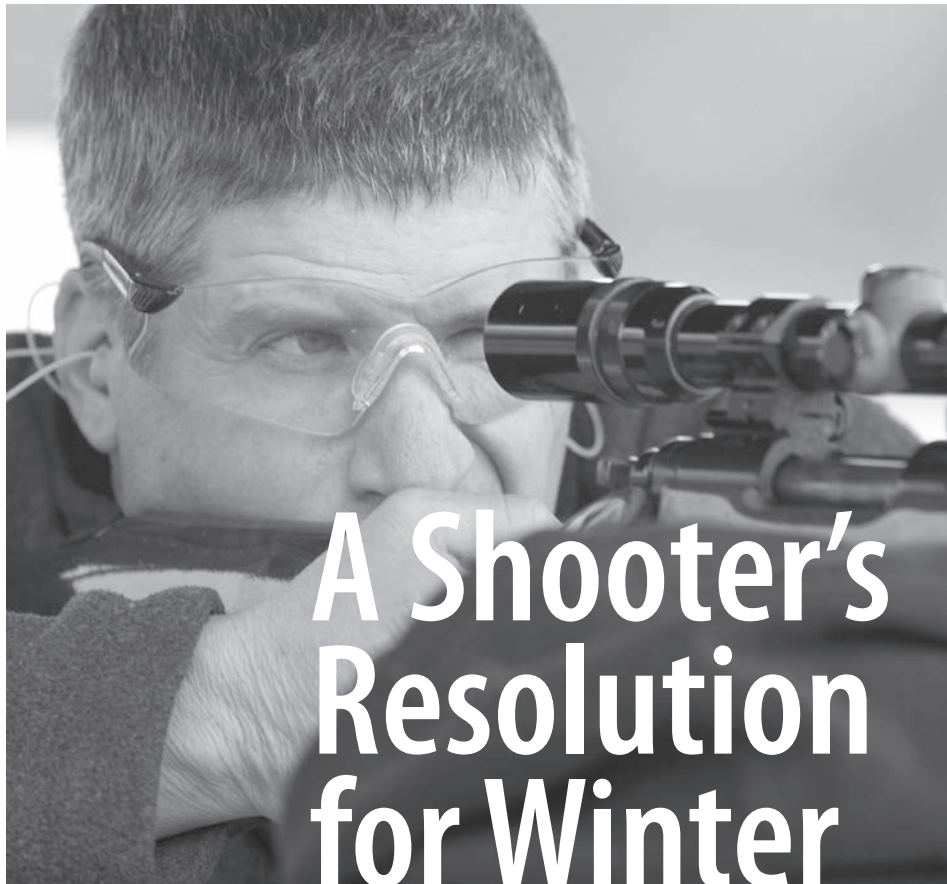


# Nature & You

News and Events from the Missouri Department of Conservation • January/February 2016



## A Shooter's Resolution for Winter

It's opening morning of Missouri's deer season and you are in your tree stand overlooking a corn field harvested only weeks before. The morning temperature is cool, your mind wanders thinking about monster bucks nearby. You ponder one stepping out of the tree line and into the corn field which you are methodically viewing through your binoculars. Then suddenly, a nice buck steps out into the edge of the corn field roughly 75 yards away from your stand. You slowly put down your binoculars and pick up your rifle, take careful aim at the buck and squeeze the trigger. After a while, you safely work your way out of the tree stand and walk towards your harvested buck. As you approach your downed quarry you suddenly realize your shooting opportunities are over for another year. Or are they?

For many hunters and recreational shooters the end of the big game hunting seasons usually means the rifle or shotgun is put away in the gun safe for another year. However, this can be a time for the hunters and recreational shooters to work on improving their shooting skills.

January and February still offer several small game shooting opportunities, such as squirrels and rabbits for the rifle enthusiast and snow geese and crow hunting for the shotgunners. There are even more year-round shooting opportunities for those who are interested in extending the shooting experience. For example, if you are a rifle cartridge handloader, winter months are great times to spend on the shooting bench improving that favorite hand-load for your hunting rifle or even developing a completely new handload.

Improving accuracy comes with consistency not only from the rifle and ammunition but from the shooter themselves. If you are not a hand-loader but enjoy shooting the newest ammunition on the market, then you will want to spend some time on the range trying out all the new manufactured ammunition offered this past season. Whether you are developing a new reload for your rifle or shooting some of the newest manufactured ammunition, it's a great way to practice your marksmanship skills and familiarize yourself with your firearm.

Now you may ask yourself, "Where can I go and shoot my rifle in the middle of the winter?" MDC has 70 unstaffed ranges around the state. The unstaffed ranges provide a year round opportunity to shoot safely in an environment designed for public shooting. There are also five manned ranges in the state. There are two ranges and outdoor education centers located in the Kansas City Region:

**Parma Woods Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center** located near Parkville, and **Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center** located near Buckner.

The manned ranges offer a greater opportunity for those shooters who like to continually improve their marksmanship skills year round. Lake City Range and Parma Woods both offer pistol shooters the opportunity to shoot at 7, 15 and 25 yards. For the waterfowl and upland bird hunters, Lake City has three trap machines and two skeet fields which will help the hunter keep their skills sharp.

In Missouri winters can often be mild, so make it your New Year's resolution to get out and practice your shooting skills on MDC ranges.

—Steve Elliott  
Lake City Shooting Range Supervisor

# Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/280](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/280)



Located in Blue Springs, Missouri, one mile north of I-70 and one mile west of MO 7 on Park Road. Six trails, 1,071 wooded acres, two picnic areas, indoor wildlife viewing area, 3,000 gallon native fish and turtle aquarium, hands-on nature exhibits, gift shop, and sales of fishing and hunting permits.

## NATURE CENTER HOURS:

Tuesday–Friday: 7 AM–6 PM

Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM

## AREA AND TRAILS:

Daily: 7 AM–6 PM

Daylight Saving Time: 7 AM–8 PM

Closed all state holidays.

## TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-228-3766 to sign up for a program requiring registration on or after the first business day of that month. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

## What's for Dinner?

Wednesdays & Saturdays • 3 PM

*Walk-in* (all ages)

Discover what's for dinner at Burr Oak Woods as the captive amphibians, fish and turtles enjoy their feast every Wednesday and Saturday. The snakes will be fed every other Friday (Jan. 8 & 22 and Feb. 5 & 19)

## Snakes Alive!

January 2 • Saturday • 1:30–2:30 PM

*No registration required* (all ages)

Slither on in to the nature center for a scaly good time! Discover how snakes are one of the most surprising groups of animals during this hands-on interactive program. You may even get a chance to see just how snakes consume their prey.



## Decoding Tracks

January 9 • Saturday • 10–11:30 AM

*No registration required* (all ages)

"That looks like a bear track!" Kids and adults will enjoy learning about tracks. Tracks reveal some of the secrets of an animal's life. Join us to unravel the mystery. Part of this program will be outside.

## Babes in the Woods: Snow Exciting

January 12 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM

*Registration required* (babes under 36 months)

Just because it is winter doesn't mean you can't play outside. Join Naturalist Kathleen for some outdoor fun. If there is snow, bring your sled! Winter can be a magical time to create special memories with your little one.

## Conservation Kids Club: Mammals

January 12 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM

*Registration required* (ages 7–13)

They can dig, climb and even fly. They are Missouri's mammals. This furry group of animals shares unique characteristics that set them apart from all other animals. Join us as we celebrate all that is special about mammals.

## Little Acorns: Life in a Cave

January 13 • Wednesday • 10–11 AM

or 1–2 PM

January 14 • Thursday • 11 AM–Noon

Saturday 16 • Saturday • 11 AM–Noon

*Registration required* (ages 3–5)

Would you like to live in a cave? Many Missouri animals would say YES! Join us as we learn about some of these cave dwellers and enjoy a unique simulated cave experience.

## Home School: Caves

January 13 • Wednesday • 10–11:30 AM for

ages 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 or 1–2:30 PM

for ages 6–8, 9–11

*Registration required*

Explore the dark mysteries of Burr Oak Woods' cave...inside the nature center. Learn how these dark, unique habitats give rise to some of the most peculiar creatures in our state.



## Burr Oak Woods Offers Photography Contest

Did you capture something beautiful at Burr Oak Woods this year? Each year our visitors take thousands of wonderful photographs highlighting the beauty and diversity of our site. If you have a photo you'd like to share, Burr Oak Woods is hosting its annual photography competition and would like to include you! Please visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/node/280](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/node/280) or contact Burr Oak Woods for details. Submissions are due by Friday, Feb. 26. Good luck!

## Feeder Watch, Hot Cocoa & Door Prizes!

January 16 • Saturday • 2–4 PM

*Walk-in* (all ages)

Bird lovers everywhere! Join us in the nature center solarium to learn more about bird ID, seed preferences, Project FeederWatch and more. Free coffee and hot cocoa will be available and every participant will have the chance to win one of five bird-themed door prizes\* (arrive before 3:30 p.m. to qualify for door prizes). Brave the cold weather and warm up in here!

## Cooking Wild: Squirrel

January 23 • Saturday • 1–3 PM

*Registration required* (adults & ages 11+ when accompanied by a participating adult) Many Missouri hunters began with and continue to hunt for one critter: squirrels! Squirrels are plentiful and fun to hunt. They also make great table fare. Join us as we explore hunting, skinning, and most importantly, cooking these bushy tailed mammals.

# Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/280](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/280)

## Native Flower "Clay Bead" Jewelry

January 30 • Saturday • 12:30–2:30 PM

*Registration required* (adults & ages 14+ when accompanied by a participating adult)  
Create a unique wearable work of art with acrylic "clay" as a set of earrings, necklace pendant, ring or brooch. Learn about some of our beautiful and essential native plants as you craft your jewelry from one of many basic flower shapes...flowering dogwood, sunflower, wild ginger and more.

## Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

January 30 • Saturday • 11 AM–Noon

February 27 • Saturday • 11 AM–Noon

*Walk-in* (ages 2+)

Join us for story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet birds, mammals and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest and fly across the prairies. Our imaginations are the only limits.

## Winter Hike

February 6 • Saturday • 1–2:30 PM

*No registration required* (ages 12+)

Let's get out, stretch our legs and see what nature is doing. We will start at the nature center and take the "backdoor" to the Bethany Falls Trail loop then return. Total hike is three miles moderately strenuous. Dress for hiking and the weather.

## Conservation Kids Club: That Makes Perfect Sense

February 9 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM

*Registration required* (ages 7–13)

We use our five senses every day to navigate the world around us. For wild animals, alert senses can mean the difference between finding a meal and becoming a meal. Come learn about some of the unique sensory adaptations animals use to survive in nature.

## Babes in the Woods: Pelts, Puppets and Play

February 9 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM

*Registration required* (babes under 36 months)

During the winter we turn our thermostats up and add layers of clothes and blankets for warmth. Join Naturalist Kathleen for some indoor fun as we learn about animals that stay active throughout the long winter chill in this hands-on learning experience.

## Little Acorns: Snow Tracks

February 10 • Wednesday • 10–11 AM  
or 1–2 PM

February 11 • Thursday • 11 AM–Noon

February 13 • Saturday • 11 AM–Noon

*Registration required* (ages 3–5)

This month Little Acorns is all about SNOW! You can learn a lot from looking at animal tracks in the snow. If Mother Nature doesn't provide us with some fluff we will make our own! Join us snow or no snow.

## Home School: Reptiles Rock!

February 10 • Wednesday • 10–11:30 AM for  
ages 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 or 1–2:30 PM

for ages 6–8, 9–11

*Registration required*

Scales, shells and forked tongues may creep you out, but these coldblooded creatures help keep nature in balance. Discover more about their important role in the web of life and learn how to identify the venomous snakes of Missouri.

## Missouri Hunter Education Skills Session

February 20 • Saturday • Noon–4 PM

*Registration required* (ages 11+ youngsters must be accompanied by an attending adult)

This skills session is the second half of the hunter education certification for those who have completed the online course option, the self-paced manual option or through attending a classroom session. Attendees will demonstrate proper firearm safety through hands on skills and take an exam at the end. Attendees must provide a qualifier certificate or student manual with all review questions answered in order to complete the skills session. Registration and more information can be found at: <http://www.register-ed.com/programs/missouri>

## Maple Sugaring

February 27 • Saturday • 1–3 PM

*Registration required* began January 5 (all ages)

In our culture of a supermarket in every neighborhood, it is almost magical to be able to make something delicious to eat out of some liquid flowing out of a tree. Savor this wonder of nature by learning how to tap trees, collect sap and make delicious syrup from native trees.



## Discover Nature Squirrel Hunting Workshop

January 9 • Saturday • 9 AM–1:30 PM  
*required orientation*

January 23 • Saturday • 9 AM–Noon and  
1–3 PM am hunt and pm cooking

*Registration required* (adults & ages 11+ when accompanied by a participating adult and hunter education certified)

Squirrel hunting is a great way to introduce people to hunting. It is exciting, fun and most importantly, even new hunters can achieve success! Join us for this exciting workshop as we explore hunting squirrel hunting and how to prepare the meat for meals.

### Orientation:

January 9 • Saturday • 9 AM–1:30 PM  
Lake City Shooting Range: (*required to go on the hunt*) Orientation includes firearm safety, squirrel hunting basics, scouting and a chance to learn new skills by target shooting.

### The Squirrel Hunt:

January 23 • Saturday • 9 AM–Noon  
We will meet at Burr Oak Woods Nature Center for the hunt. A mentor and equipment will be provided. Hunters ages 16 and up need to be either hunter education certified or to purchase an Apprentice Hunter Authorization AND a small game hunting license.

### Cooking Wild: Squirrel

January 23 • Saturday • 1–3 PM

We will join the Cooking Wild: Squirrel program to learn how to skin and prepare harvested squirrels for cooking, plus we'll learn some delicious wild game recipes for cooking them.



# Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

28505 E. Truman Road, Landahl Park, Buckner, MO 64016 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/282](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/282)



Located on 60 acres of forests and fields near Blue Springs, Missouri, six miles north of I-70 on MO 7 and two miles east of MO 7 on Truman Road in Landahl Park. Facilities include an outdoor education center, archery, pistol, rifle and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.

## HOURS:

### May 1–September 15

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–6 PM

### September 16–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Monday and Tuesday  
and all state holidays.

**FACILITIES AND FEES:** Available for individual or group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range: \$3 booth per hour
- Trap/Skeet: \$3 per round
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour
- Shotgun pattern: \$3 per person per hour

## TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-249-3194 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

## Basic Handgun

January 3 · Sunday · 8–11:30 AM

*Registration required* began Dec 4

February 21 · Sunday · 8–11:30 AM

*Registration required* begins Jan 15

(ages 18+) This is a novice class for people who have little or no experience in handling and shooting a handgun. Topics that will be covered include safety in the home, types of handguns, different parts, the variety of calibers, ammunition and marksmanship. Class includes range time.

## Introduction to Skeet Shooting

January 9 · Saturday · 9–Noon

*Registration required* (ages 12+)

Are you a trap shooter who wants an exciting and quicker target game? Why not try skeet shooting? Skeet shooting is a great way to improve your basic shotgun skills and improve your hit ratio on all types of winged game. You may even pick up a new sport at the same time!

## Beginning Archery

January 16 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM

*Registration required* began Dec 14

(ages 12–17) Archery has become very popular with young people today. Many competitions are held between school archery teams. Learn more about the fundamentals of shooting archery such as proper stance, draw technique, equipment and follow through.

## Family Trap Shooting

January 24 · Sunday · 9–11:30 AM

*Registration required* (ages 12+)

Trap shooting is a fun shooting sport to experience. The course will cover basic firearm safety, different actions on shotguns, proper shot size, proper firearm fit and shot follow through. Trap is a good way for an upland game hunter to improve their shotgun skills.

## Introduction to Shotgun Reloading

February 5 · Friday · 6–8:30 PM

*Registration required* begins Jan 6 (adults)

Enjoy shooting clay targets but the cost of shells keep going up? Reduce the cost of shooting trap or skeet by reloading your own shotgun shells. We will show the basic equipment needed in reloading, shotgun hulls to use and the safety precautions when reloading.

## Introduction to Paracord Weaving

February 10 · Wednesday · 9–11:30 AM

*Registration required* (ages 8–17 + parents)

Have you ever wanted to make your own rifle sling or survivor bracelets? This class will show you the basics of weaving your own sling with all of the supplies needed to go home with your own creation!

# Bird Feeding in the Winter

**M**any people don't think of feeding the birds, summer or winter. Birds are usually able to fend for themselves, but in the winter, they need a little help. Feeding birds is a great way to connect with nature, learn about different species and watching them feed provides great entertainment.

Birds are warm-blooded creatures which mean they maintain their body temperature within a certain range, even when the temperature around them changes. Keeping that body temp within a normal range depends on the amount of heat the bird produces. On cold days, birds may fluff up their feathers, creating pockets of air, which helps to keep them warm.

Providing high calorie and high fat foods is as important as providing different types



of food. Ground feeders such as dark-eyed juncos, sparrows and mourning doves enjoy oil sunflower seed, but won't feed on a suet feeder hung for woodpeckers, chickadees and

titmice. Blue jays and cardinals love shelled peanuts, while goldfinches enjoy fine-chopped sunflower seed or nyger thistle seed. Take a look at the birds in your backyard and identify the species you see, then feed accordingly.

Fresh water is important, as well. As streams and ponds freeze in the winter, birds find it difficult to find fresh water; providing a heated bird bath allows birds to drink as needed. Plus, it's fun to watch robins take a messy bath on a sunny day in February.

There is so much to learn about our bird friends. Visit your local bird store, check out a book (or two) from the library and get the kids involved with feeding and watching the birds. What a wonderful way to pass the hours on a cold, wintry day!

—Judy Farnsworth,

Lake City Range Resource Assistant

# Parma Woods Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

15900 NW River Road, PO Box 14024, Parkville, MO 64152 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/283](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/283)

## Experience a Natural Resolution

I have always felt a bit of amusement in the tradition of making a new year's resolution. In fact I sometimes laugh out loud at all the hype. The advertisements for fitness products and diet pills really seem to go bonkers each year trying to grab the attention of those who wish to lose a few pounds. There are those that resolve to spend money more wisely or save more. Then you have those that resolve to work on something they see as a personal flaw. Some wish to learn more. Others want to spend more quality time with loved ones. Part of the reason I laugh is very few people actually accomplish their goals. A quick internet search reveals that only about 8% of those that make resolutions see them through. Those aren't very good odds.

This year I challenge you to try something a bit different. Give nature a try. The New Year brings new opportunities to explore nature. In fact, spending time in nature can actually help accomplish many of the resolutions we make. For those that set out to lose weight, try hiking or biking down a local trail. Nature also offers lean, healthy sources of foods that are completely void of artificial ingredients. For those that wish to learn something new, nature offers plenty. MDC offers classes to help here as well. Enjoying nature will help with your budget too, because most activities are very low in cost. Finally, there is no better way to connect with loved ones than spending time together in nature. For information on places to go or things to do, visit [www.mdc.mo.gov](http://www.mdc.mo.gov)

— Nathan Woodland  
Parma Woods Range Supervisor

### Discover Nature: Sausage and Jerky Making

January 6 · Wednesday · 6–8 PM

*Registration required* (all ages)

With a few simple tools it's easy to make great sausage and jerky. Whether you are just thinking about giving it a try or are a seasoned veteran; you will benefit from this class. During this class we'll show you some of the equipment options then take you through the basic processes of making different sausages and jerky. We might even give you a recipe or two.

### Rabbit Hunting for Families

January 21 · Thursday · 6–9 PM

*Registration required* (all ages)

If you have been suffering from the winter time blues then bring the whole family out for our annual rabbit hunting clinic. Not only is rabbit hunting fun, exciting and challenging, but rabbits also make excellent fare for the table. During a fun and educational seminar we'll explore the details of hunting rabbits, covering rabbit biology, equipment needed, techniques and of course safety. All participants will be invited to attend a mentored hunt on January 23 or 24.

### Creating Cartridges: Metallic Reloading Basics

February 11 · Thursday · 6–10 PM

*Registration required* (ages 11+)

Reloading cartridges is a great way to enjoy your firearms even after the season is over. Whether your goals include squeezing out additional accuracy or shooting more for less money, this class will give you the foundation needed to start making safe cartridges right away.

### Selection, Mounting & Zeroing Scopes

February 18 · Thursday · 6–9 PM

*Registration required* (ages 11+)

With literally thousands of options, it can sometimes be difficult to choose the right scope for you. In this seminar we will talk about how to go about selecting the right optic for you, options for mounting it and how to mount it. Then we'll discuss how to bore sight and zero your new scope.



Located in Platte County, Missouri. Go west of downtown Parkville on Route FF to River Road, then west 3 miles to the entrance located just west of I-435. Facilities are available for individual or group use and include a rifle/pistol/shotgun range, and archery range.

### HOURS:

**May 1–September 30**

Monday and Tuesday: 2 PM–8 PM

Friday–Sunday: 10 AM–4 PM

**October 1–April 30**

Friday–Tuesday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Wednesday and Thursday and all state holidays.

### FACILITIES AND FEES:

- Rifle/pistol/shotgun/range: \$3 booth per hour
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

### TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-891-9941 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

### Firearm Selection for the Beginner

February 20 · Saturday · 9–11 AM

*Registration required* (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

With literally thousands to choose from, choosing the right firearm for you can seem like a daunting task. Our range staff is often asked what gun is the best to



buy. The answer generally given is, "it depends." Join our certified firearms instructors as we take you through a systematic approach to choosing the right gun for you.

# Anita B. Gorman **Discovery Center**

4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/281](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/281)



Located in Kansas City, Missouri, just east of the Plaza near 47th and Troost. Six hands-on workshops explore Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife with a Lewis and Clark theme. Discovery Center is a showcase for environmental architecture with four acres of native landscaping. Buy books and hunting/fishing permits at the gift shop.

## **HOURS:**

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM  
1st and 3rd Tuesdays: 8 AM–9 PM  
1st and 3rd Saturdays: 9 AM–4 PM  
Closed all state holidays.

## **TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:**

Programs are free. Call 816-759-7300 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

## **Fascinating Furbearers**

January 2 • Saturday • 10 AM–2:30 PM  
*Walk-in* (all ages)

Coyotes, foxes, beavers, and otters are just a few of the fascinating furbearers roaming the fields, forests and wetlands of Missouri. Explore the world of Missouri's furbearing mammals and how their populations are managed through hunting and trapping. We'll learn how to identify mammals by their tracks and scat and how this knowledge can help you become a better hunter or trapper. Children will be able to make their very own cast of an animal print to take home.

## **Nature Nuts Storytime**

January 2 • Saturday • 10–11 AM,  
11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

January 16 • Saturday • 10–11 AM,  
11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

*Walk-in* (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

## **Scout Program**

January 5 • Tuesday • Evening  
*Registration required* (Scouts)

Scout leaders, are you lacking expertise or equipment to complete conservation badges? Bring your troop to the Discovery Center. Education Specialist staff will provide a program helping your Scouts with rank achievement. All Missouri Scout groups of 10–24 participants are welcome to schedule a free program. Please contact Steve Jacobsen at (816) 759-7305 ext. 1146 or [steve.jacobsen@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:steve.jacobsen@mdc.mo.gov) to schedule an evening program on the first Tuesday evening of the month.

## **Burroughs Audubon Society presents Gulls: Birding in Browns, Grays and White**

January 5 • Tuesday • 7:15–8:15 PM

*No registration required* (adults)

No group of birds is more challenging than gulls, to birders of every skill level. Mark Land has many years of experience observing and identifying these visitors to our lakes and rivers. Come and learn his time-tested techniques, then join him for a gull-watching excursion in February 2016!

## **Scout Discovery Day**

January 16 • Saturday • 10 AM–2:30 PM  
*Walk-in* (all ages)

Girls, Boys, Brownies, Cubs, Cadets and Webelos - join us for a day of hands-on activities designed for fun and rank achievement. We'll have stations set



up for you to learn new skills and achieve conservation badge requirements. Explore the life of animals and plants that call Missouri home. Try your hand at a new skill such as tree identification, knot tying, fire starting, compass orienteering and more. Both individual Scouts and troops are welcome. Don't miss out on the fun this Scout Discovery Day! All are welcome to attend.

## **Wildfire Fighting**

January 19 • Tuesday • 7–8 PM

*Walk-in* (adults)

This program will give a brief introduction into wildfire fighting tactics in Missouri as well as in the Western states. We will go over tactics, communication, causes and effects of wildfire across the landscape. There will be an opportunity for questions following the program.

## **Scout Program**

February 2 • Tuesday • Evening  
*Registration required* (Scouts)

Scout leaders, are you lacking expertise or equipment to complete conservation badges? Bring your troop to the Discovery Center. Education Specialist staff will provide a program helping your Scouts with rank achievement. All Missouri Scout groups of 10–24 participants are welcome to schedule a free program. Please contact Steve Jacobsen at (816) 759-7305 ext. 1146 or [steve.jacobsen@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:steve.jacobsen@mdc.mo.gov) to schedule an evening program on the first Tuesday evening of the month.

## **Burroughs Audubon Society presents Confessions of a Mother**

February 2 • Tuesday • 7:15–8:15 PM

*No registration required* (adults)

Linda Williams has been fascinated by butterflies and moths since childhood and now spends many hours rearing native silk moths and other lepidopteran species for educational and photographic purposes. Her screened porch overflows with many species of colorful moths and butterflies and their larvae throughout the summer months. She will give an overview of her adventures in rearing these gorgeous creatures accompanied by her exceptional photographs.

## **Urban Woodsman**

February 6 • Saturday • 10 AM–2:30 PM

*Walk-in* (all ages)

Are you uncomfortable trying to light a campfire or swinging a hatchet or maul to split firewood? These are a few of the basics every guy and gal should know for surviving even the toughest urban winter. Spend a day mastering useful outdoor basics like knot tying, fire-starting, water purification, shelter building, wood splitting and how to tap a maple tree for syrup.



## The usefully weird turkey vultures

**H**ave you looked to the sky lately? If so, you may have noticed a few bald eagles but what you rarely see in winter are turkey vultures. These mainstays of our summer sky head south when cold weather arrives. They will begin migrating back into northern Missouri in March and will again help free our roadways, woodlands and fields of dead animals. Vultures' keen sight helps them search for dead animals, their prime food. Unlike most birds, vultures also have a well-developed sense of smell which aids them in detecting their next meal.

You can see vultures in many habitats. In the Kansas City area, one of the best places to find vultures is near the Missouri River bluffs. Warm air rising against the bluffs provides excellent aerodynamics for vultures to soar for long periods without having to flap their wings. If you are headed to the Parma Woods Shooting

Range, you will often see a dozen or more birds along the bluffs between Riverside and Parkville. These same birds can sometimes be seen sitting on the exterior staircases of large storage tanks in that area. These staircases serve as an alternative to the typical roost in trees.

To learn more about these unique birds, visit the Discovery Center for our Clean-up Crew program 7 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 16.

— Stacey Davis  
Discovery Center Manager



### Nature Nuts Storytime

February 6 · Saturday · 10–11 AM,  
11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM  
February 20 · Saturday · 10–11 AM,  
11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

*Walk-in* (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

### Clean-Up Crew

February 16 · Tuesday · 7–8 PM  
*Walk-In* (adults)

Vultures are often dubbed “nature’s clean-up crew” and serve an important role in the ecosystem. This presentation will highlight the many adaptations that allow vultures to be such superb scavengers and how they help reduce the spread of disease. The talk will cover basic natural history and how these birds are faring in a human-dominated world, with a focus on the three species found in North America; turkey vulture, black vulture, and California condor.

### Wildlife Survival: Raptors of Missouri

February 20 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM  
*Walk-in* (all ages)

Possessing the right tools is the key to survival for raptors as the wintry chill of February surrounds us in Kansas City! Come learn about the specialized structures and



adaptations that help raptors survive in their native habitats. Participate in the hands-on exploration and investigation of different types of skulls and beaks. Dissect an owl pellet to look for the secrets that rest within. Join us for a live raptor presentation with Meagan Duffee-Yates, permitted falconer, at 11:00 and 1:00. Raptors stay very busy during the winter, come by and learn what they’re up to!

## The beauty and bounty of forests

**D**id you know that Missouri has more than 14 million acres of forest land? Did you know that forests are Missouri’s greatest renewable resource? When we think about the many uses of trees many of us only think about shade, campfires and paper. Trees are used to make many products, but are also a great resource for survival.

One of the most popular products that come from trees in the winter is maple syrup. Maple syrup is made by collecting the sap from the maple trees and boiling off the water until you are left with rich sweet syrup. The sap will begin flowing when you get daytime temperatures in the 40’s and nighttime temperatures below freezing. Sugar maples are the most sought after tree to collect sap from because they have the highest sugar content. It takes 40 gallons of maple sap to make one gallon of sap. Sap can also be collected from other trees like walnut, box elder, birch and sycamore however these trees will have lower sugar content.

Trees can be a great resource for survival as well. Birch bark, particularly the white birch, has been used by people in survival situations for many years. The bark itself can be used for fire starting due to the oil that it contains. The inner bark can be cut into strips for making cordage. Native Americans also used this bark to line the outside of their canoes. Birch bark is waterproof making it ideal for canoes.

The Discovery Center will offer a program outlining the many resources and benefits that trees provide. Our Urban Woodsman program will be offered from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 6. We will teach about maple sugaring, fire starting, shelter building, log splitting and more. This will be a hands on program for all ages to learn some new skills using Missouri’s greatest renewable resource.

— Steve Jacobsen  
Discovery Center Assistant Manager

## Beat cabin fever with winter trout fishing

**W**hen the winter blahs hit, go fishing. The Missouri Department of Conservation's winter trout fishing season is open. Rainbow trout are stocked at specific urban lakes in the Kansas City metro area.

MDC stocked trout at the Fountain Bluff Sports complex in Liberty; in Coot and Plover

Lakes at the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area in Lee's Summit and at Chaumiere



Lake in the Kansas City park system near North Cleveland Avenue and Northeast 43<sup>rd</sup> Terrace.

Statewide trout fishing regulations apply. All Missouri residents over age 15 and under age 65 must have a valid fishing permit, and all non-residents over age 15 must have a fishing permit. The daily limit is four trout. To keep trout, all anglers must have a Missouri trout permit.

A winter trout fishing hotline for the Kansas City metro area with updates on stocking is available at 816-525-0300, ext. 4001.

## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

*All facilities will be closed for these state holidays:*

**New Year's Day, January 1**  
**Lincoln's Birthday, February 12**  
**Parma Woods, Lake City and**  
**Discovery Center will be closed**  
**Martin Luther King Day, January 18**  
**Washington's Birthday, February 15**

## Get ready for spring planting

**S**eedSavers-KC will be hosting the 2016 Seed Exchange at a different location. On Jan 16, 2016 the Seed Exchange will be from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at The Hampton Inn and Suites located on the Country Club Plaza at 4600 Summit, KCMO. Please bring your non GMO, non-hybrid seeds in single size envelopes (10-50 seeds each) marked with their variety and botanical name to trade with other seed savers. There is a suggested donation of \$2.00 per person entry fee. <https://www.facebook.com/2016SeedSavers.KCSeedExchange/>

## Naturescaping Workshop and Native Plant Sale at Burr Oak Woods

March 19 • Saturday • 8 AM–1:15 PM  
 Registration required begins February 2

**Workshop:** 8 AM–12:45 PM  
 PM Beautify your landscape with some of Missouri's best natural resources, native plants! Learn how to save time, money and create wildlife habitat with educational sessions on pollinators, invasive species, native plant fairy gardens, wild edibles, treescaping and many more. Missouri Wildflower Nursery will be available for native plant sales to workshop participants from 12:45 to 1:15 p.m.

**Plant Sale:** 1:15–3:45 PM  
 Missouri Wildflower Nursery will be on site with native plants for sale while supplies last.



## Thankyou Volunteers

Volunteers are an important asset to the Missouri Department of Conservation and help provide outstanding customer service. We would like to recognize the following volunteers for their unselfish service in 2014:

### BURR OAK WOODS

**100 hours:** Cassandra Barker, Kaitlyn Bogacz, Jerry Carey, Doreen Kraxberger, Abigayle Rush, Raechel Sebastian  
**200 hours:** Mariah Arrocha, Sharon Arrocha, James Seymore, Lola Tann  
**300 hours:** Talena Carpenter, Mary Summer, Sharon Takade, Terry Talley, Joyce Watson  
**400 hours:** Steven Beal, Vanessa Eads  
**500 hours:** Jack Corrigan, Jack Merriot  
**750 hours:** Jean Jones, Gail McKay  
**1000 hours:** Jennifer Chapin  
**1250 hours:** Lowell Burns, Theresa Enderle, Deanna Rittel  
**2000 hours:** John Rittel  
**2500 hours:** Ruth Farrand Cox  
**5000 hours:** Jim Hawes

### LAKE CITY SHOOTING RANGE

**100 hours:** Jack Cook  
**200 hours:** Jack Cook, Matthew Albertson  
**300 hours:** Len Horton  
**500 hours:** Gary Combs, Jael Dawson  
**600 hours:** Bob Rubin, Allan Morris, Jael Dawson, Richard Galvin, Victor Mistele  
**800 hours:** Bob Fitts, Allan Morris  
**1000 hours:** Tom Van Biber  
**1500 hours:** William Al Dobyns

### DISCOVERY CENTER

**100 hours:** Nick Burditt  
**400 hours:** Bill Taft  
**750 hours:** Colleen Murbach  
**1000 hours:** Anette Howk, Jo Roff  
**1250 hours:** Mary Ann Foster

### PARMA WOODS

**500 hours:** John Kennedy, Kevin Clossik  
**1250 hours:** Patrick Liposchak  
**1500 hours:** Chris Charles